

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

1416 NINTH STREET

SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95814

(916) 445-3531



September 10, 1987

TO: Klamath Fishery Management Council

FROM: Robert Fletcher, Chairman
Klamath Fishery Management Council

SUBJECT: July 22, 1987 Minutes

Enclosed are minutes of the first meeting of the Klamath Fishery Management Council. Please review them and be prepared to provide additions or corrections at our October 29 meeting.

The Cooperative Enforcement Agreement and Memorandum of Agreement relating to Indian Commercial Fisheries on the Klamath River, which were in a late draft stage at the time of our meeting were signed on July 27, 1987. Copies of these agreements, along with other pertinent documents, are enclosed.

To bring you up to date, on the in-river chinook fishery, the commercial Indian gillnet fishery took 29,040 fish, slightly exceeding the quota of 29,000, and closed on August 26. The entire catch was examined by the USFWS for coded-wire tags. Preliminary indications are that Iron Gate Hatchery fish predominated in this harvest.

The subsistence gillnet fishery in Area I (below Highway 101 bridge) closed September 6, with a catch of 11,133 fall chinook salmon. The subsistence quota for Area I is 10,000. The remaining subsistence quotas will be adjusted if necessary to keep the total catch within the overall commercial and subsistence quota of 59,000 fall-run chinook.

Salmon sport anglers have done well in the lower Klamath, however they will not reach the quota "trigger" of 7,160 or 40 percent of the total in-river sport allocation. We anticipate a season sport catch of 2,500-3,000 chinook below the 101 bridge.

Beach seine sampling of the fall chinook run at the Klamath River mouth has been successful. Daily catches of up to 500 fish have yielded adequate information for estimating age composition and other parameters.

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Up river sport and subsistence harvest are just getting under way — I have no harvest estimates for those fisheries.

CC: [illegible]

Robert Fletcher
Chairman

cc: Ron Iverson

Introduction

Interim Chairman J. Lisle Reed convened the meeting, referring to accomplishments of the Klamath River Salmon Management Group and the need for the present Council to continue this work.

Members of the Council, and one alternate, introduced themselves with brief comments on background and interest in Klamath fishery issues. Dr. Reed requested that each member prepare a brief written biographical sketch and submit it to the Klamath Field Office, for distribution to the Council and Task Force.

Congressional Direction

Dr. Reed reviewed the Klamath River Basin Fishery Restoration Act (16 U.S.C. 460ss). A question was raised regarding Section 2 of the Act, as to whether funding for the Klamath River Basin Conservation Area Restoration Program could be expended for offshore monitoring of salmon harvest. There was general agreement that the Act appears to allow this, but the question will require legal counsel review.

Operating Procedures

A draft of suggested operating procedures was distributed to the Council, to assist them in developing final procedures as called for in Paragraph 3(h)(3) of the Act. Dr. Reed asked the Council to review the draft operating procedures and submit comments to the Klamath Field Office for inclusion in a revised draft to be considered at the next Council meeting.

There was extensive discussion of how the Council could comply with the requirement of Paragraph 3(g)(1) of the Act that all decisions be unanimous. There seemed to be agreement that this requirement should apply to those members and alternates present at a given meeting, and not to absent members.

Bruce Taylor of Congressman Bosco's staff stated there will be opportunity to amend 16 U.S.C. 460ss, and the Council might wish to suggest new language to clarify the issue of unanimous consent.

Old Business

(i) Five-Year Allocation Agreement There was considerable discussion as to whether all technical issues have been resolved in the draft agreement document, particularly the issue of how to apportion harvest reductions in a year of low chinook abundance. The agreement was amended to emphasize that it does not limit the legal entitlements of user groups, approved by roll call vote, signed by all Council representatives, and distributed to the Council. Nat Bingham cited the efforts of Dr. Crutchfield in reaching agreement on allocation of Klamath fall chinook.

(ii) PFMC Framework Plan Amendment John Coon of the PFMC staff explained that the Framework Plan must be amended to reflect the change in management of Klamath fall chinook from a spawning escapement objective to a harvest rate objective. This change must be supported by detailed technical justification and impact assessment. It was agreed that the Technical Advisory Team would develop this information and provide it to PFMC staff by late 1987, to meet a schedule of amending the Framework Plan prior to the 1989 season.

Technical Reports

L. B. Boydstun provided information on the ocean fall chinook harvest, indicating that the offshore catch of Klamath chinook will considerably exceed the preseason objective of 118,500 fish, even if the Klamath River Management Zone remains closed to commercial fishing. L. B. indicated that special troll chinook fisheries near the mouths of the Eel, Chetco and Sixes rivers can proceed with small catches of Klamath stocks projected. Those catches will be subtracted from the 1988 ocean harvest quota. The proposed troll fishery off the Rogue River probably should not proceed, because of impacts on Klamath chinook.

Jim Martin cited the mixing of Rogue and Klamath stocks as an argument for continuing the beach seine sampling of fall chinook in the lower Rogue. Funding for that sampling was recently withdrawn by the Corps of Engineers.

Craig Tuss reported on harvest estimates for the Klamath gillnet fishery, which was just underway at the time of the Council meeting.

Ron Jaeger reported on the State/Tribe/BIA memos of agreement to regulate inriver commercial salmon fishing and overall enforcement of harvest regulations. Those agreements were near completion at the time of the Council meeting and are now signed (Attachments 1 and 2).

Election of Officers Bob Fletcher and Sue Masten were elected as chairperson and vice chairperson, respectively. The sole duty of the vice chairperson will be to conduct meetings in the absence of the chairperson. Ron Iverson was appointed recording secretary.

Appointment of Committees It was agreed that the Council's need for technical support requires the Technical Advisory Team to be activated, even though operating procedures are not formalized. The following persons were nominated to the Team: Michael Maas, nominated by Nat Bingham; L. B. Boydstun, by Virginia Bostwick and Bob Fletcher; Mike Morford, by Bob Hayden; Steve Cramer, by Jim Martin; Bob Hanna, by Lyle Marshall; Dave Hankin, by Richard Schwarz; Rod McInnis by Gary Smith; Scott Boley, by Keith Wilkinson, and Jim Larson, by Lisle Reed. Jerry Barnes was nominated to the Team by consensus.

It was agreed the membership procedures, and assignments of the Team will be formalized at the next Council Meeting.

Next Meeting

The Council will meet on October 29 at 9 a.m., in Eureka. This date is selected to follow the October PFMC meeting. There was discussion of an annual schedule of meetings. Sue Masten volunteered to coordinate a field trip on October 30 to points of interest on the lower Klamath.

KLAMATH FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

ATTENDANCE, MEETING OF 22 JULY 1987

NAME

REPRESENTING:

Nat Bingham	California commercial salmon fishing industry
Virginia Bostwick	In-river sportfishing community
Bob Fletcher	California Department of Fish and Game
Bob Hayden	Offshore recreational fishery
Lyle Marshall	Hoopla Indian Tribe
Jim Martin	Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
Sue Masten	Non-Hoopla Indians
Lisle Reed	Department of the Interior
Richard Schwarz	Pacific Fishery Management Council
Gary Smith	National Marine Fisheries Service
Keith Wilkinson	Oregon commercial salmon fishing industry